

The clerk will read the bills for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2629) to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to eliminate the coverage gap, to eliminate HMO subsidies, to repeal health savings accounts, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2630) to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a national health program administered by the Office of Personnel Management to offer Federal employee health benefits plans to individuals who are not Federal employees, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2631) to require the Federal Trade Commission to monitor and investigate gasoline prices under certain circumstances.

A bill (S. 2632) to establish a first responder and terrorism preparedness grant information hotline, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2633) to amend the Federal Power Act to provide refunds for unjust and unreasonable charges on electric energy in the State of California.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard, and the bills will be placed on the calendar.

FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 620, S.J. Res. 40. I ask unanimous consent that the motion be set aside to recur on Monday, July 12.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Is this the matter—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Asking through the Chair a question to the majority leader, is this the matter we are going to be working on next week?

Mr. FRIST. It is.

Mr. REID. I have worked a lot this afternoon and this morning clearing with our Members the fact that it would not be necessary that we deal with cloture on the motion to proceed. We have cleared that. We would also be in a position to have no amendments on the constitutional amendment that we are going to debate next week. Whatever the majority believes to be a reasonable time to debate that, we will be in agreement with that and have a vote on the resolution. We are cleared on our side to do that.

We would hope, if the majority leader can get a clearance on that, we can move forward and have a definite time sometime next week for a vote on the resolution itself. We are ready to move forward on it.

Yesterday, we believed it was necessary that we have the leader file this cloture motion on the motion to proceed, but we will not need that now. We are ready to rock and roll on the debate of this issue.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for the benefit of our colleagues, we are talk-

ing about the issue surrounding marriage and the constitutional amendment and procedurally how best to address the issue. We have had debate and discussion over the course of the day. Because of the late hour, I was not able to talk to the managers on our side and have the same discussions as the other side has had as far as the best way to address the issue procedurally. Because of the late hour, I have not been able to reach our managers of the bill, but over the course of the weekend we will do that.

For the benefit of our colleagues, we will substantively be debating the issue Monday and Tuesday. In all likelihood, we will have a vote on Wednesday through one of the two modes that have been mentioned, but we will make a final decision Monday morning after we have had the opportunity to talk to the managers on our side as well.

Mr. REID. I simply state again, procedurally we are not going to be in the way. We are ready to move forward.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. If I could ask one other question before the majority leader begins to speak, are we going to have any votes on Monday? I have gotten a number of requests through Senator DASCHLE.

Mr. FRIST. We will not be voting on Monday. We will have no rollcall votes in Monday's session.

Mr. REID. We are coming in to debate the issue?

Mr. FRIST. Let me go ahead and do the unanimous consent, and then I will make another statement that is unrelated.

Mr. REID. Certainly.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 12, 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 1 p.m. on Monday, July 12. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 40; provided further that the time until 6 p.m. be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE JOBS BILL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few moments, I am going to be making another statement before closing, but before doing that, I want to point out to our colleagues that over the course of today, there have been a number of meetings held between both sides of the aisle and leadership to keep moving along issues that are important to this body and to the American people.

One of the bills that the assistant Democratic leader and myself and the Democratic leader and our leadership addressed earlier this morning is the jobs in manufacturing bill, the FSC/ETI bill, and the efforts that we are making to move toward conference. This bill has passed the Senate, it has passed the House of Representatives, and now we are doing our best to address how to get to conference. This is a time-sensitive matter because the tariffs on U.S. products are increasing.

Since we passed the Senate bill and the House bill, these tariffs, which started at 5 percent in March and reached 9 percent on July 1, continue to increase at 1 percent a month.

We spent 14 days debating the bill. We had 100 amendments, made real progress, and now it is important that we go to conference to fully address and resolve the differences between the House and the Senate bills. For the benefit of all of our colleagues, I wanted to let them know that we are in constant discussion about how best to get to conference.

HIV/AIDS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to very briefly, before bringing us formally an end to this week, address an issue that sits on the back burner all too often. It is an issue that affects mankind globally in a very direct way, in a moral sense. It is the HIV/AIDS virus. I speak today because on Tuesday of this week, UNAIDS released a comprehensive report on the spread of global HIV/AIDS.

This little, tiny virus, which people knew nothing about 23 years ago, has killed over 23 million people. The sobering statistics that were released this week are grim. Last year, the number of newly infected victims reached an all-time high of 5 million. The number of people living with this little virus has gone up in nearly every region of the world. The numbers have increased. The UNAIDS chief told the Associated Press:

The virus is running faster than all of us.

Every 14 seconds a child is orphaned by AIDS. According to the U.N. report:

An estimated 15 million children under the age of 18 worldwide have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

In Swaziland and in Botswana, over a third of the population, one in three people, has the HIV virus. One-third of the country, if not treated, will end up dying from a terrible, a painful, and an entirely preventable disease.

One out of three people in Swaziland and Botswana, these are staggering numbers. It is hard to comprehend. When you hear the statistics, it is hard to relate them to real people on the ground. I have had the opportunity to do just that because each year I travel, not as a Senator but as a physician, to Africa. While I am there, I see the devastation in real people's eyes and lives, the destruction of the family, the destruction of the most productive fabric